



Fig. 3-7 RESOURCES LOCATED IN THE WEST END

- Scenic
- Natural
- Cultural
- Historic & Archaeological
- Recreational

3 Intrinsic Qualities Resources of Significance

This section presents the resources by segment of Pennsylvania Avenue. Each resource is described in the text below and indicated on the segment maps. The resources' associated intrinsic qualities are also noted in the text and maps.

West End

- 1 Rock Creek Park** - Just beyond where M Street becomes Pennsylvania Avenue, the tops of red oaks, sycamores, elms, and other tall trees announce the presence of Rock Creek Park below. Established in 1890, Rock Creek Park is one of the oldest national parks in the National Park Service (NPS). This 2,820-acre park is also one of the largest forested urban parks in the United States, containing a variety of natural, scenic and recreational features - all within five miles of the White House. With its forest of Virginia pine, loblolly, and pitch pine, its meadows, and its streams, it provides habitat for nearly 150 species of birds, as well as deer and beaver. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, hiking, biking, skating, birdwatching, horseback riding, tennis, and golf. The western end of Pennsylvania Avenue crosses over the southern end of the park, with access for hikers and bikers by a concrete ramp from the bridge to bike trails below. Farther north of the corridor, amenities include the National Zoo, a horseback riding area, and the Carter Barron amphitheater. (N,R,S)

- 2 Foggy Bottom Historic District** - Except for a single alley warehouse and a few buildings built as corner stores, the Foggy Bottom Historic District is comprised mainly of private residences. Primarily flat-fronted structures with a limited range of materials and styles, the rowhouses are generally two or three stories in height and date primarily from the late 1870s to the first decade of the 20th century. Among the earliest houses is a frame house at 25th and I Streets that may have been associated with the Underground Railroad. Originally, the area primarily housed poor German and Irish immigrants, who worked in nearby industries.

Foggy Bottom was described in those days as being low and swampy with fogs settling in over the river banks and mixing with smog from the gas works. Today, the late 19th-century working class neighborhood and industrial heritage are still discernable amid the surrounding federal buildings and high-rise offices. (H)

- 3 Embassy of Spain** - The embassy has been located in this building at 2375 Pennsylvania Avenue NW since 1994. Spain has been involved in diplomatic relations with the United States since the time of the American Revolutionary War. (C)

- 4 Washington Circle** - This traffic circle, part of the original L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington, is located at the intersections of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire Avenues, and 23rd and K Streets (with K Street passing underneath). It was the first of the city's circles to be landscaped and, today, features a variety of trees and plants, including sawtooth oak, linden, Japanese flowering crab apple, catalpa, elm, red oak, willow oak, and sweet cherry. The equestrian statue of George Washington in the center dates from 1860. (H,N)

- 5 Caldwell-Monroe House / Arts Club of Washington** - The Monroe House, 2017 I Street NW, is a beautifully preserved 1805 house that serves as the venue for art displays, lectures, and small concerts. Designated as a National Historic Landmark, the house was the residence of President James Monroe while the White House was being restored following its burning by the British in 1814. (H)

- 6 The Octagon** - William Thornton, the architect of the U.S. Capitol, designed this building in 1800 for Col. John Tayloe of Virginia. Located at 1799 New York Avenue NW it fits well onto an oddly shaped lot. Following the burning of the White House in 1814, the Octagon served as a temporary White House for

Each description of a byway resource is categorised by the intrinsic quality the resource embodies. This is represented by the color of the marker on the map and also the letter or letters in parentheses after the descriptions.

- A = Archaeological
- C = Cultural
- H = Historic
- N = Natural
- R = Recreational
- S = Scenic



Washington Circle



The White House



Foggy Bottom section of Pennsylvania Avenue

James and Dolly Madison. Likewise, the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812 was signed here by President Madison. Now a National Historic Landmark, the building provides museum and gallery space for the American Institute of Architects. (H)

7 Blair House - The Blair House, a National Historic Landmark located at 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, is the official guest-house for high-level dignitaries visiting the White House. It was built in 1824. President Harry S. Truman lived here while the White House was renovated between 1950 and 1952. A plaque on the fence honors the Secret Service agent who died after being shot in an attempted attack on President Truman's life during his residency here. (H)

8 Embassy of Mexico - Mexico has had its diplomatic presence in the United States on Pennsylvania Avenue since the 1990s, when it moved to 1911 Pennsylvania Avenue from 16th Street NW. (C)

9 Corcoran Gallery of Art - The Corcoran Gallery, which features American art, is the largest non-federal art museum in the Nation's Capital. Founded in 1869, it was Washington's first art museum and one of the three oldest museums in the United States. It includes the Corcoran College of Art and Design, which is the only professional art and design school in Washington, DC. The Corcoran is located at 17th Street and New York Avenue NW. (C)

10 Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall - DAR Constitution Hall is Washington, DC's largest concert hall and the site of the founding of the National Symphony Orchestra in 1930. Every president since Calvin Coolidge has attended events at DAR Constitution Hall. Past performances have spanned musical genres - from the Bolshoi Ballet to Duke

Ellington to Billy Joel. DAR Constitution Hall is located at 1776 D Street NW. (C)

11 Museum of the Americas - The Art Museum of the Americas of the Organization of American States, located at 201 18th Street, NW, was established in 1976 in tribute to the two-hundredth anniversary of the independence of the United States, host country of the OAS. The historic building was designed by noted architect Paul Cret in 1912 as the residence for the Secretaries General of the Organization of American States. Today, the building provides an intimate atmosphere to enjoy art. (C)

12 Renwick Gallery - Housed in a historic landmark at the Northeast corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW across from the White House, the Renwick Gallery was the former home of the Corcoran. Today, the gallery is part of the Smithsonian Institution and houses a permanent collection of American craft. (C)

3 Intrinsic Qualities Resources of Significance

Monumental Core

13 The White House - Every chief executive since John Adams in 1800 has enjoyed the world-famous address of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Designed by James Hoban, an Irish-born architect, in 1792, the White House is a National Historic Landmark. The British burned the White House in 1814 when they invaded during the War of 1812. As the official residence of the President and First Family, the White House also is an American cultural icon. Numerous state dinners and events are held every year, although admittance is by invitation only. The White House offers tours to public from Tuesday to Saturday. The Easter Egg Roll is held on the South Lawn each Monday after Easter. (C H)

14 White House Grounds - When sons of Frederick Law Olmsted were commissioned to design the landscape for the White House grounds in the 1930s, they advocated wide-open swaths combined with trees and shrubs, such as tupelo, Atlas cedar, ginko, Carolina laurelcherry, and red ash around the perimeter. Nearly every president has performed the symbolic ritual of planting a "Presidential Tree" on the White House grounds. (N)

15 The Ellipse - This 52-acre site to the south of the White House, bounded by E, 15th, and 17th Streets and Constitution Avenue NW is part of the original plan for the City of Washington. Open to the public, it contains a memorial to the U.S. Army's First Division, a sculpture and pool commemorating the Boys Scouts of America, and two gate houses and gateposts from the U.S. Capitol. The view toward the Washington Monument and the National Mall across the Ellipse - offers a unique panoramic view of the capital's open space. A familiar view often shown in TV news broadcasts, Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House provides the closest view of the White House without entering the grounds. The Ellipse also hosts the Pageant of Peace with the illuminated National Christmas Tree each December. (C,H,S)



Fig. 3-8

RESOURCES LOCATED IN THE MONUMENTAL CORE

- Scenic
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Freedom Plaza



Processional Route



Lafayette Park

16 Lafayette Square and Peace Park - This seven-acre, tree-shaded square, a National Historic Landmark, was part of the White House Grounds until the alignment of Pennsylvania Avenue in the 1820s separated it from the executive mansion. The square takes its name from the Marquis de Lafayette, who served on General George Washington's staff during the American Revolution. A statue of the marquis and statues of other Revolutionary War heroes stand on each of the four corners of the square, with an equestrian statue of General Andrew Jackson in the center. Since 1981, the Square and Park have hosted a 24-hour-a-day vigil for peace, justice, and global nuclear disarmament. In contrast to those playing chess in the square, roller-bladers take advantage of the opportunities provided by the vehicle restrictions on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. (C,H, R)

17 Financial District/15th Street Historic District - A designated DC Historic District, the 15th Street Financial District includes twenty buildings built between 1835 and 1940. It generally includes buildings fronting on 15th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and I Street. It is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. (H)

18 Pershing Park - In this park at Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street NW, river birch, honey locust, and red-flowering crepe myrtle surround a large, square pool and fountain, making this park a welcome oasis in downtown. Other flowers and grasses are maintained in planters, and there is a notable stand of large white oak and other trees on the west side of the park, near 15th and E Streets. There is ice skating in the winter. (N,R)

19 Andrew Mellon Park - Named for a former ambassador to Great Britain and founder of the National Gallery of Art, Mellon Park boasts a fountain and a shady, restful ambiance. Willow oaks, elms, and other trees and shrubs surround the fountain. (N)

20 Pennsylvania Avenue Festival Area/ Processional Route - This area hosts such festivals and events as the Taste of DC, the Pennsylvania Avenue Mile, and the Walk for the Homeless. The viewshed from this area includes some of the views along the Pennsylvania Avenue that are most distinctive to its character. The "picture postcard" views with the US Capitol flanked by the Old Post Office, the FBI Building or the National Gallery, are well-known. Views from the top floor restaurant of the Washington Hotel or the Old Post Office tower offer sightseers a unique perspective on downtown Washington. (C, S)

21 Freedom Plaza - Freedom Plaza has been the site of numerous gatherings, protests, and festivals. Anti-war protesters and civil rights advocates have all gathered here. It is the commencement point for various bike rides, road races, and walk-a-thons, including Bike DC, Help the Homeless Walk, and Race for the Cure. It is the venue for concerts, rallies, and other "home-town" festivals and events. Freedom Plaza is the site of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. time capsule, which contains Dr. King's bible, robe, and other memorabilia and will be opened in 2008. (C)

22 National Theatre - Known as the "Theatre of the Presidents," National Theatre is located at 1321 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, three blocks from The White House. The theatre, which first opened in 1835, has operated longer than any other major touring house in the United States. The building was rebuilt on the five times during the 1800's, rebuilt in the 1920's, and renovated in 1984. Many great stage performers of the past century appeared here, such as Laurence Olivier, Cab Calloway, and Katharine Hepburn. Today, National Theatre offers the latest Broadway shows, as well as free programs. (C)

23 Warner Theatre - Since its opening in 1924, the Warner has undergone many transformations, serving as a Cinerama

3 Intrinsic Qualities Resources of Significance

moviehouse and even a pornographic movie theater until it was renovated for concerts. A "new" Warner opened in 1992 with a gala featuring Frank Sinatra and emerged as a destination for national and international recording artists and the finest in theatrical, dance, and television presentations. Today, the Warner Theatre offers concerts, comedy, and other performances. (C)

24 John A. Wilson Building - This Beaux Arts-style building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW was designed in 1904 and has been the seat of local government for nearly 100 years. From here, three presidentially appointed commissioners ruled the District of Columbia between 1874 and 1974, when residents regained the right to elect a mayor. The building is named to commemorate the late city council chairman, John A. Wilson. (H)

25 Ford's Theatre National Historic Site - The National Park Service has restored Ford's Theatre, where John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Lincoln in 1865. The theatre, which is within the Pennsylvania National Historic Site, is located at 511 10th Street, NW. Across the street is the Petersen House, where Lincoln died the following morning. The Petersen House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (H)

26 Federal Triangle Complex - This group of office buildings, located within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site along the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Sixth and 15th Streets and Constitution Avenue NW houses various federal government departments and agencies. Designed in classical monumental style, the building project began in the 1930s and was only completed when the Ronald Reagan Building was finished in the last decade of the 20th century. (H)

27 Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center - Designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners and constructed in the

1990s, this structure (at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW) completes the Federal Triangle. In addition to being the second largest federal office building in the US, the Ronald Reagan Center contains a visitor center, gift shop, food court, and restrooms. (C)

28 Old Post Office Building - Designed and built in the 1890s in the Romanesque Revival-style, this was the first federal building constructed on Pennsylvania Avenue (its address is 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW). In the 1960s, the public rallied to save the building when it was threatened with demolition by the federal government. Today, the Old Post Office has been adapted for reuse as federal office space, with shops and a food court around the original atrium. The 315-foot clock and bell tower is the second tallest in the city and provides excellent views. (H)

29 National Archives - The National Archives is located within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site between Seventh and Ninth Streets NW. It displays American political, social and cultural artifacts and houses the Nation's most treasured documents - the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. These historic documents are displayed in the central hall, which is accessed by a monumental stairway from Constitution Avenue. The National Archives building is undergoing renovation; the Rotunda will reopen in 2003. (H,C)

30 US Navy Memorial - The Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center, located at 701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, hosts enlistment, promotion, awards, retirement, and wreath-laying ceremonies. The memorial, which features a large, granite world map and the statute of "The Lone Sailor," honors all men and women who have served in the country's sea services. The Heritage Center features movies, drill team performances, and "Concerts on the Avenue," a popular summertime tradition. (C)



Old Post Office



Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center